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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 8 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement made on 7 September 1995 by the President of the Republic of Kazakstan, Mr. Nursultan A. Nazarbaev, regarding illegal trafficking in nuclear materials (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 14 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Statement by the President of the Republic of Kazakstan

The Republic of Kazakstan shares the concern of the international community and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, regarding the illegal trafficking in nuclear materials, which is continuing in spite of the fact that the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have decided to extend the Treaty indefinitely.

The risk of proliferation is also increasing as a result of the dismantling of large numbers of nuclear weapons, the activities of non-State organizations interested in acquiring nuclear devices, and the possibility of transferring nuclear materials and weapons to regions where national and inter-ethnic conflicts are taking place.

We support the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to resolve this problem. The Republic of Kazakstan has ratified the agreement with IAEA on the application of safeguards under the non-proliferation Treaty, and has thereby become part of the international system for monitoring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and their components.

However, technical measures alone cannot guarantee nuclear non-proliferation, since in this area the activities of non-State agents, precisely because of their clandestine nature, pose the greatest risk. A new climate of openness and transparency in nuclear matters is essential. The effectiveness of the non-proliferation regime depends on a high degree of political commitment by Governments in the field of international security; together, Governments must establish a stricter export monitoring and control regime. In this regard, the implementation of the proposal made by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, on the convening of a meeting in the spring of 1996 to discuss nuclear security issues can constitute an important step towards the uniting of efforts to prevent illegal trafficking in nuclear materials.

Almaty, 7 September 1995